

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for using a computing system for querying at least one of a plurality of target databases for one or more target database records that match an input data query, said method comprising:

receiving at the computer system from a requesting source an input data query having input data and an input data type;

querying from the computer system a reference database selected from among a plurality of reference databases based on the input data type for a reference database record that matches the input data;

in response to finding a matching reference database record, querying from the computer system at least one of a plurality of target databases for one or more target database records that correspond to the reference database record;

in response to failing to find a matching reference database record but finding one or more possibly matching reference database records, determining whether a possibly matching record can be considered a near-matching record to the input data;

in response to identifying a near-matching record, querying at least one of the plurality of target databases for the one or more target database records that correspond to the near-matching record;

in response to failing to identify a near-matching record, generating a selection request to choose from among the one or more possibly matching records a record that corresponds to the input data and in response to selection of a chosen record from among the one or more possibly matching records,

querying at least one of the plurality of target databases for the one or more target database record that corresponds to the chosen record; and
retrieving those target database records that correspond to the reference database record and transferring from the computer system the corresponding records to the requesting source.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising generating a request to enter a new input data query in response to failing to find a reference database record.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the querying any of the plurality of target databases further comprises, in response to finding a matching reference database record, querying for records that possibly correspond to the reference database record.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for querying one or more target databases from a computing system for one or more target database records, said method comprising:

receiving at the computer system an input data query from a requesting source, wherein the input data query has input data and an input data type;

based on the input data type, selecting from among a plurality of reference databases one or more reference databases;

in response to selection of a single reference database, querying from the computing system the single reference database for a reference database record that matches the input data;

in response to selection of multiple reference databases, querying the multiple reference databases for a reference database record that matches the input data;

converting a matching reference database record found by the querying the single reference database or by the querying the multiple reference databases to a canonical form;

using the canonical form of the matching reference database record for subsequent queries of one or more target databases for one or more target database records;

retrieving those target database records that correspond to the matching reference database records and transferring the corresponding target database records to the requesting source.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said converting comprises converting the matching reference database record to one or more canonical forms wherein an individual of the canonical forms corresponds to one of the one or more target databases and using an individual of the canonical forms for querying its corresponding target database for the one or more target database records.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein said using comprises removing information from the matching reference database record and subsequently using any remaining information for the subsequent queries of the one or more target databases for the one or more target database records.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the matching reference database record comprises additional information beyond the input data query and wherein said using comprises:

separating the information of the matching reference database record to create a plurality of forms, and

using the plurality of forms for the subsequent queries of the one or more target databases for the one or more target database records.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein~~ further comprising, in response to selection of multiple reference databases:

sequentially querying the multiple reference databases ~~are sequentially queried~~ until a reference database record that matches the input data is found.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein~~ further comprising, in response to selection of multiple reference databases:

querying the multiple reference databases ~~are queried~~ in parallel to retrieve reference database records that match the input data, and the method further comprises selecting one of the matching reference database records.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13 wherein said selecting is based on whether there is a quorum among the one or more matching reference database records.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 ~~wherein~~ further comprising, in response to selection of multiple reference databases:

querying the multiple reference databases ~~are queried~~ for reference database records that match the input data, and

using an individual matching reference database record for subsequent queries of one or more target databases for one or more target database records.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for querying one or more target databases for one or more target database records in a computing device, said system comprising:

a memory ~~storing~~ configured to store:

a set of reference-based mapping rules configured to match input data queries to reference database records in one or more reference databases;

a set of target-based query rules configured to match reference database records to target database records in one or more target databases;

a validation and mapping processor that ~~in response to an input data query~~, is configured, in response to an input data query, to use the set of reference-based mapping rules to match at least one record in at least one selected reference database to the given input data query, and to use the target-based query rules to match the one or more target database records in the one or more target databases to the at least one matched reference database record or to a canonical form of the matched reference database record;

wherein the validation and mapping processor is configured to use a reference database list specifying relations between input data queries and reference databases to determine the at least one selected reference database;

wherein the validation and mapping processor is configured to use a list of transformation rules to convert reference database records to canonical forms; and

wherein the validation and mapping processor is configured to retrieve a list of the one or more target database records.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the validation and mapping processor is configured to use the list of transformation rules to convert reference database records to customized canonical forms that correspond to the target databases.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~wherein~~ further comprising parsing said input data ~~is parsed~~ into component data parts, and selecting said selected reference database ~~is selected~~ to individually validate the component data parts by

selecting at least one reference database based on the type of component data part and querying the reference database to select a reference database record that matches the component data part, and

in response to finding a matching database record, storing the matching reference database record;

in response to finding matching reference database records for each of the individual component data ~~[[part]]~~ parts, combining ~~[[each]]~~ the stored matching reference database records and using the combined records for subsequent queries of one or more target databases for one or more target database records.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
parsing the input data into component data parts,
sequentially querying the selected reference databases to individually validate the
component data parts by
 selecting at least one reference database based on the type of component
 data part and querying the reference database to select a reference database
 record that matches the component data part, and
 storing a matching reference database record found as a result of the
 querying the reference database,
combining stored matching reference database records and using the combined records
for subsequent queries of one or more target databases for one or more target database records.

22. – 38. (Cancelled)